



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
ON HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS**

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2012**

The Council of the City of San José convened in Regular Session at 1:32 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Council Members - Campos, Chu (1:56 p.m.), Constant, Herrera (1:45 p.m.), Kalra, Liccardo, Nguyen, Oliverio, Pyle, Rocha; Reed.

Absent: Council Members - All Present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DISCUSSION**

Documents Filed: (1) Memorandum from Council Member Oliverio, dated October 29, 2012, recommending direction to the Administration to bring back information to the Council about how the City of San José can provide transportation (paid by the Housing Department) for homeless people to be reunited with their families that live outside San José. (2) Memorandum from Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia and Director of Environmental Services Kerrie Romanow, dated September 4, 2012, transmitting the background on the Phase 1 Homeless Encampment Response. (3) Staff presentation dated October 29, 2012 summarizing the Report on Homeless Encampments.

Mayor Reed introduced Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia.

**(1) Defining the Issue: Three Perspectives**

Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia provided introductory remarks and introduced the following panel of speakers.

**(1) (Cont'd.)**

**Panel of Speakers:**

- (1) Brett Klynn, Spring Brook Resident provided a presentation about the homeless encampments and the neighborhood impacts. He added that there were cleanups in the areas but the homeless returned once the cleanup was finished.
- (2) Joe Boessenecker, Vice President of Operations, Mercury News, presented details about the detrimental Business Impacts.
- (3) Director of Environmental Services Kerrie Romanow offered details about the devastating Environmental Impacts.
- (4) Chris Galias, Santa Clara Valley Water District, spoke about the homeless encampments, the need to protect and restore creek, bay and other aquatic ecosystems. He pointed out that the homeless have established themselves along the creeks throughout the County and have become more aggressive towards staff.
- (5) Jenny Nicklaus, EHC LifeBuilders, explained the outreach services that occur at the homeless encampments in the City of San José.
- (6) Jennifer Loving, Destination: Home, described the chronic homelessness in San José.

Mayor opened the floor for public testimony.

**Public Comments**

- (1) Richard Santos, Director, Santa Clara Valley Water District, pointed out that there has been an increase of crime and vandalism in the area and more help from the San José Police Department is needed. Mr. Santos suggested bringing in the National Guard and the Army Reserves to help with the homeless population.
- (2) Robert Handlon stated he was in St. James Park with his daughter, and a homeless person had his bike, a shopping cart and his pitbull dog chained to a structure at park. Mr. Handlon complained to a Police officer and the Officer told him to go to another park with his child.
- (3) David Wall stated that the homeless problem requires the assistance of the U.S Military.
- (4) Leslee Hamilton stated that the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy is plagued with homeless encampments and the public is discouraged from using the park.
- (5) David Serrano urged the Council to continue with encampment cleanups.
- (6) Teddy Morse stated that there is an increase in homeless encampments in Almaden Valley, especially near Coleman Avenue and Meridian Avenue. Mr. Morse urged the Council to keep working with the Santa Clara Valley Water District in the cleanup process.

Council Member Pyle presented a slide on the Pioneer BioSITE Field site boundary and pointed out that the homeless are too close to this school.

**(2) Past Approach to Cleanups**

Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia offered introductory remarks.

Acting Deputy Director of Environment Services Napp Fukuda provided the past approach to cleanups and the Phase 1 Approach. Deputy Director Fukuda presented a video of the Story Road homeless encampment cleanup which occurred on October 18 and 19, 2012.

**(3) Phase I: Results and Lessons Learned**

Acting Deputy Director of Environmental Services Napp Fukuda continued with the Phase IP Results and Phase I Observations. Assistant Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand explained the Phase I: Housing Outcomes and Successes.

Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Stephen Hammack presented highlights on the Park Ranger Pilot and the Pilot Outcomes. Assistant Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand presented the Housing Challenges.

Acting Deputy Director of Environmental Services Napp Fukuda highlighted the Case Study: Bevin Brook on July 19, 2012.

Assistant Director of Housing Jacky Morales-Ferrand provided information and background about the encampment residents.

**(4) Phase II: Moving Forward: Policy Alternatives**

Director of Housing Leslye Corsiglia presented the key challenges in moving forward, limited current capacity, current actions, proposed actions, program costs, not including housing and encampments on San José waterways.

Extensive Council discussion ensued.

**Public Comments**

- (1) John Davis stated that Coyote Creek is polluted and Olinder School was too close to a homeless encampment.
- (2) David Serrano suggested a type of penalty for the homeless, citing it is not a crime to be homeless but the actions of the homeless are sometimes criminal
- (3) David Wall urged the Council to bring out the Military Police Units in order to send a message to the homeless.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Reed adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Minutes Recorded, Prepared and Respectfully Submitted by,

Dennis Hawkins, CMC  
City Clerk

smd/10-29-12 HOMELESS MIN

Access the video, the agenda and related reports for this meeting by visiting the City's website at <http://www.sanJoseca.gov/city> or <http://www.sanJoseca.gov/civiccenterTV>. For information on any ordinance that is not hyperlinked to this document, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (408) 535-1266.